THE FUR SEALERS.

Preparations for the Season's Work-

How They Are Caught. Unusual preparation is being made here and at Victoria for the coast catch of fur seals, says a Scattle, Wash., dispatch to the Globe-Democrat. The price of skins is higher now than has ever been known. Two years ago the best skins of the fur seal sold here at \$4.50 each. A lot of 3,000 was purchased here about a month ago for \$12.75, and now the skins are worth from \$20.00 to \$25.00 each, and the wo to the Globe-Democrat. The price of there are none to be had. Not withstanding this the catch of coast seals and seals in the forbidden waters was very large. There were, leaving the Alaska fur com-There were, leaving the Alaska fur company and the North American company out of consideration, thirty American and as many more Canadian vessels engaged in the catch. The returns show that they took about 40,000 skins, worth on a reasonable estimate to them \$400,000. This has inspired the fitting out of new vessels here and at Victoria.

but there are more to hunt them. They are found usually off the various hali-but and cod banks, from five to 100 miles out from the coast. During high water in the spring, when the salmon run, they are found in large numbers ten or fifteen miles out from the mouths of the fifteen miles out from the mouths of the Klamath, Columbia, Coquilie and other rivers. One thing that has caused more schooners to be fitted out for the coast for seals is the superiority of their skins over those of the Prybiloff islands. The fur is newer and thicker, and company the state of the part of the seals of the prybiloff islands. mands a shade better price. like the Prybiloff island hunting where the animals are killed with clubs, the seals are shot in the water, there being no islands or rookeries where they gather. Each schooner carries from fifteen to twenty-five Indians with the requisite rowboats. Arriving off coast in the scaling waters, each small boat is in the scaling waters, each small boat is manned by three of the Indians, two of whom manage the cars while the third watches warily with a shotgun for the scals. Oftentimes the scals are killed while askep. The hunters steal noiselessly upon a half dozen or more of them, and all three grasping quickly the shotguns in the bottom of the boat, fire, oftentimes killing eight or ten of them before the rest ing eight or ten of them before the rest disappear. Shot does not damage the skins as far as the market is concerned, because in dressing and dyeing them the skins are worked full of holes any-

way and require cutting and piecing.

The hunters stay out from daylight till dark in good weather. Fogs do not interfere. The schooner is always cruising near, and at such times ever and anon discharges signals. Should violent winds or storms spring up the hunters must desist till they are over. Hunting for fur seals is not hard work. All they have to do is to take things easy and watch. The shotguns are death-dealing at forty yards. Captain E. P. Miner, of this city, is a seal hun-ter of long experience. In 1888 he took 208 seals in one day. This was the best record he ever made up to that time, but one day this year his men took for him 242 in a day.
Of the sixty American and Cana

dian vessels engaged in sealing from this and neighbring ports year thirty - five to the shores of British Columbia and Alaska, trenching on the waters of Behring sea The remaining twenty-five hunted off the straits of San de Fuca and Cape Flattery principally. For a time eight or ten worked off the Oregon coast, and did very well, their greatest success being near the mouths of the larger rivers. One vessel, however, stood fully one hundred miles out, during nearly all the season, and took over 15,000 skins. This was in a locality where the water is 1,000 feet deep. The fur seal is a very peculiar animal and runs far out at sea to live on squids and various other kinds of small fish. Even where none are known to exist the seal is fat and has a good skin. The many seal hunters here say that the season which is now about to open will be a very lively one. The big prices of the present year, combined with the big catch, has made them very enthusi-

The Winter of Our Content

is the title of a recent charming paper by that brillant writer Charles Dudley Warner, wherein the glories of the Pacific coast, as a winter resort, are most graphically described. The American people are beginning to understand that the Puget Sound country is one of our most splendid possessions and that the name of the "Mediterranean of the Pacific" is a happy title not misapplied.

Pacific" is a happy title not misapplied.
In speaking of Mount Tacoma, Senator
George F. Edmunds says:

"I would be willing to go 500 miles
again to see that scene. The continent
is yet in ignorance of what will be one
of the grandest show places as well
as sanitariums. If Switzerland is
rightly called the playground of
Europe, I am satisfied that
around the base of Meunt Rainier will
become a prominent place of resort, not become a prominent place of resort, not for America only, but for the world besides, with thousands of sites for building purposes, that are nowhere excelled for the grandeur of the view that can be obtained from them, with topographical features that would make the most perfeet system of drainage both possible and easy, and with a most agreeable and health giving climate."

Thousands of delighted tourists over the Union Paritis the past year bear ample testimony to the beauty and majesty of this new empire of the Pacific

· 1602. Sixteenth and Farnam streets is the new Rock Island ticket office. Tickets to all points east at lowest rates.

The Early Residents of California. The early foreign aesidents of California were largely runaway sailors, writes General Bidwell in the Century. Many if not most would change their For instance, Gilroy's ranch where the town of Gilroy is row located, was owned by an old resident under the assumed appellation of Gilroy. Of course vessels touching upon this coast were liable, as they were everywhere, to lose men by desertion, especially if the men were maltreated. Such things have been so common that it is not difficult to believe that those who left their vessels in early days on this then distant coast had cause for so doing. To be known as a runaway sailor was no stain upon a man's character. It was no uncommon thing after my arrival here, for sailors to be skulking and hiding about from ranch to ranch till the vessel they had left should leave the coast. * Californians would eaten and return sailors to get the reward which, f believe, captains of vessels invariably offered. After the vessels had sailed and there was no chance of the reward the native Californians gave the fugitive no further trouble.

OLD FASHIONED HARVESTING.

How Farming Was Conducted In California in the Forties.

Harvesting, with the rude implements, was a scene, writes General Bidwell in the Century. Imagine three or four hundred wild Indians in a grain field armed, some with sickles, some with armed, some with sickles, some with butcherknives, some with pieces of hoop iron roughly fashioned into shapes like sickles, but many having only their hands with which to gather by small handfuls the dry and brittle grain; and as their hands would soon become sore, the resorted to dry willow sticks, which were split to afford a sharper edge with which to sever the straw. But the wildest part was the threshing. The harvest of weeks, somettines of a month, was piled up in the pany and the North American company out of consideration, thirty American and as many more Canadian vessels engaged in the catch. The returns show that they took about 40,000 skins, worth on a reasonable estimate to them \$400,000. This has inspired the fitting out of new vessels here and at Victoria. Half a dozen or more schooners are also on the way from Nova Scotia and will arrive here by January I, when the season begins. The season lasts from that time on till April, and sometimes into May.

The catch of scals along the Pacific coast, from the Faralione islands off San Francisco, up the Oregon and Washlagton coasts to Cape Flattery, has grown very important lately. Two years ago 30,000 skins were taken. New vessels have been added to the fleet every year. The seals have got a good deal wilder, but there are more to hunt them. They are found usually off the various halfing, which would often take a month. It could only be done when the wind was blowing, by throwing high into the air shovelfuls of grain, straw and chaff, the lighter materials being wafted to one side, while the grain, comparatively clean, would descend and form a heap by itself. In this manner all the grain in California was cleaned. At that day no each thing as a funning mill, but ever such thing as a fanning mill had ever been brought to this coast.

The special quality of Ayer's Hair Vigor is that it restores the natural growth, color, and texture of the hair. It vitalizes the roots and follicles, removes dandruff, and heals itching humors in the scalp. In this respect, it surpasses all similar preparations.

Samuel Burns is just in receipt of a

telegram:
NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Your importation of royal wooster has just arrived.
Will go forward by express the 20th.
DAVISON & PITCAIRN. DAVISON & PITCALEN. These goods will go on sale Tuesday morning at about half usual prices.

Washington and Oregon.

This new empire of the northwest is attracting universal attention and the reason for this is the almost unlimited resources that have recently been opened and the surprising growth of this region. Large agricultural areas; vast forests and immense deposits of precious metals are to be found in Oregon and Washing-ton, and by reason of the varied natural resources of the country this section offers unequaled opportunities for the investment of capital and location of in-dustries that are not surpassed by the older sections of the United States. Union Pacific on account of its fast time, through Pullman sleepers and din-ing cars, free reclining chair cars and free colonist sleepers from the Missouri river, is conceded to be the favorite route for persons going to either Wash-ington or Oregon.

for pamphiets fully descriptive of the above named states, or for rates, time of trains or any information pertaining to the Union Pacific, call on or address your nearest ticket agent or the under-signed, who will most cheerfully furnish any information that may be desired. A. P. Deuel, city ticket agent, 1302 Far-nams treet, Omaha, Neb

ioned in Amador Valley and became a leader of the hill vaqueros, who were very different from the vaqueros of the large valley near the Missions. He and his friends killed and ate about four hundred young heifers belonging to the mission, but when Easter approached he felt that he must confess his sins, so he went to Father Narciso and told all about it. The father forgave him, but ordered him to come in from the hills to the mission and attend school until he could read. The rules were very strict; whoever failed twice in a lesson was always whipped. Martin was utterly unable to learn his letters, and he was whipped every day for a month; but he never complained. He was then dismissed and went back to the hills. I used to question Martin about the affair, and he would tell me with perfect gravity of manner, which was very delight-ful, how many calves he had consumed and how wisely the good father had punished him. He knew now, he used to say, how very hard it was to live in the town, and he would never steal again lest he might have to go to school until he had learned his letters.

Stop coughing at once by the immediate use of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup; 25 cents a bottle. "I see a Star, Eve's first born, in whose

train" Comes the damp twilight that bringeth For aches of head, neuralgia, cut and bruise, Try Salvation Oil, these will you lose.

Weather Probabilities. For December-Indications point to cold, frosty weather. That, however, will make no difference to those who travel in the steam-heated and electrictravel in the steam-heated and electriclighted, limited vestibule train which
is run only by the Chicago, Milwaukee
& St. Paul Ry, between Omaha and
Chicago. This elegant train leaves
Omaha at 6:10 p. m. arriving in Chicago
at 9:30 a. m., in time to make all eastern
connections. For further information

apply at city ticket office, 1501 Farnam st., Omaha. F. A. NASH, st., Omaha. General Agent J. E. PRESTON. City Passenger Agent.

Every Bridegroom a Shoemaker. Nothing was more attractive than the wedding cavalcade on its way from the bride's house to the Mission church, says a writer in the Century. The horses were more richly caparisoned than for any other ceremony, and the bride's nearest relative or family representative carried her before him, she sitting on



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CHRISTMAS.

Open Today Our Full Line of Fine Holiday Furnishing Goods, Showing by Par the Handsomest Assortment of

Neckwear, Mufflers, Handkerchiefs, Suspenders, Jewelry, Gloves and "such like," that we have ever shown. Christmas comes but once a year, and most men are glad of it by the time the last bill is paid, and fully realizing the unusual strain on man's pocketbook, we have marked each and every article at its lowest possible price.

MUFFLERS.

CASHMERE MUFFLERS—Handsome styles at 15c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 45c and 50c. SILK AND WOOL MUFFLERS—Splendid assortment at 30c, 40c, 50c, 70c and 75c, SILK MUFFLERS-Every color, magnificent goods at 75c, 90c, \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50. IMPORTED MUFFLERS-The finest in the land, at \$1.50, \$2, \$2.25 and \$2.50. SILK SUSPENDERS—Fine holiday goods, blacks and fancys, from 60c to \$2.25. HANDKERCHIEFS—Siiks and linens; special prices on fine China and Japanese silk handkerchiefs.

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An Indian Vaquero.

The Indian vaqueros, who lived much of the time on the more distant cattle ranges, were a wild set of men, says a writer in the Century. I remember one of them, named Martin, who was started the range bears and the range bears and the range bears and the range bears and the range bears that could be obtained, and they rode gaily from the range bears. the ranch house to the mission, some-times fifteen or twenty miles away. In April and May, when the land was covered with wild flowers, the light hearted troop rode along the edge of the uplands, between hill and valley, crossing the streams, and some of the young horsemen, anxious to show their skill, would perform all the feats for which the Spanish-Californians were famous. After the wedding, when they returned to lead in the feasting, the bride was carried on the horse of the groomsman. One of the customs which was always observed at the wedding was to wind a silken tasseled string or a silken sash fringed with gold, about the necks of the bride and groom, binding them together as they knelt before the altar for the blessing of the priest. A charming cus-tom among the middle and lower classes was the making of the satin shoes by the groom for the bride. A few weeks befor the wedding heasked his betrethed for the measurement of her foot, and made the shoes with his own hands; the groomsman brought them to her on the wedding day.

> Marked Interest is now shown by eastern people in the settlement of Oregon and Washington,

> particularly that region adjacent to Puget Sound. The reason for this is the almost unlimited resources that have lately been opened up, and the surpris-ing growth of Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and other cities and towns along Puget

> The Union Pacific on account of its fast time, short line, through Pullman palace sleepers, free reclining chair cars, elegant dining cars, and free Pullman colonist sleepers, from the Missouri river, is the favorite route to this region, and tickets via this line should always

For complete information relative to this remarkable section, time of trains, rates, pamphlets, etc., call on your nearest ticket agent or address the under-signed. E. L. LOMAX, General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.

Tickets at lowest rates and su perior accommodations via the great Rock Island route Ticket office, 1602—Sixteenth and Farnam streets Omaha

Old Time California Hospitality. The kindness and hospitality of the native Californians have not been over-stated. Up to the time the Mexican regime ceased in California they had a custom of never charging for anything; that is to say, for entertainment—food, use of horses, etc., writes Ceneral Bidwell in the Century. You were supposed, even if invited to visit
a friend, to bring your blankets
with you, and one would be very
thoughtless if he traveled and
did not take a knife with him to cut his
meat. When you had eaten, the invariable custom was to rise, deliver to
the woman or hestess the plate on which variable custom was to rise, deliver to the woman or hostess the plate on which you had eaten the meat and beans—for that was about all they had—and say, "Muchas gracias, senora" ("Many thanks, madame"); and the hostess as invariably replied, "Buen provecho" ("May it do you much good"). The missions in California invariably had gardens with grapes, olives, figs. pomegranates, pears and apples, but the ranches scarcely ever had any fruit. When you wanted a horse to ride, you would take it to the next ranch—it might be twenty, thirty or fifty miles and turn it out there, and sometime or other in reclaiming his stock the owner would get it back. In this way you might travel from one end of California

Don't pass this BY for it means you. We have taken our entire stock of

Winter Overcoats,

and put them on separate tables, making FOUR [4]

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